

Harvington Parish Council
October 22 Meeting Notes.

FYI:

Highways /ROW:

1. Steps up to the Anchor Lane bypass bridge: and a small section of path leading to the steps starting from where 524 joins the old bypass, were made but never adopted. It is believed this was an oversight when the new bypass was built. Reported to the Highway searches team. **WCC has inspected the site and confirmed ownership of the steps. Looking into the best way to replace.**

2. Overgrown Shrubbery issue at Stratford Road: Reported and assessment of bank area. **Local Works Team have now been advised that the landslip needs to be cleared back from the footway.**

3. Trees Evesham/Alcester Road:

Lots of behind the scenes talks going on re the trees along the Evesham Road. Arboriculturist, WCC, has been out onsite inspecting the trees that back out onto Orchard Place. The trees and vegetation that are on the Evesham Road that back onto Orchard Place are the responsibility of WCC. Departments need to get together to discuss their individual reports and decide what action to take.

The trees along Evesham Road: Looking into as permission should have been applied to plant them.

Spoke to Tree Warden – has all the paperwork relating to the planting of the trees by previous Warden. Unable at present to do the work required as too much overgrowth. Informed Highways Officer of this information - Clerk to speak to Tree Warden.

4. Road to Abbots Salford: Apologies received from Highways Officer - the speed limit is 60mph.

5. Steps to access Anchor Lane: Officers looking into how best to replace the existing steps.

6. Verges Leys Road, adjacent to the Shop: Concern raised by householder over the width of the verge in regard to safety issues. WCC Officers visited the site and spoke to householder. The verge nearest to the ditch looks as though it has been taken out with the use of the digger.

WCC will, on the corner of the verge by the streetlight, put in 4 bollards to highlight the area.

The brick culvert structures **do** require repair to the edges close to the verges - that is not a WCC responsibility.

Bollards inserted, reported afterwards on the side of the verge. Highways Officer informed - to be reinstated.

7. Bus Shelter - No news, waiting to hear from County Councillor.

Note 1: Agenda No: 6a.

Footpath HV-507, Harvington) (Temporary Closure) Order 2022.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Order made by Worcestershire County Council on 24 February 2022 the effect of which is to close that part of Footpath HV-507, Harvington for its entire length which was due to expire on 3 September 2022 has been continued in force with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Department Transport until the works to which it relates have been completed or until 3 July 2023 whichever is sooner. Any further extension will require the approval of the Secretary of State. The Order has been made to allow for construction of a housing development. Alternative route: C2011 Village Street, U44015 Ragley Road, U44012 Hughes Lane, HV-512 and vice versa.

Note 2: Agenda No: 6c.

Housing For You – for circulation

Below is the information about those households registered on Housing For You.

As of 13th July 2022, the data shows that there were 23 households currently registered with an address in Harvington. Of these 23 households, they have the following bedroom need:

1 bed – 9

2 bed – 5

3 bed – 6

4 bed – 3

The household types are as follows:

Single individuals – 7 (including 1 pensioner household)

Couple – 3 (including 1 pensioner household)

Family – 13

There is no information to suggest that any of the 23 households required an adapted property to meet any specific needs.

There were a further 25 households registered with an address in one of the surrounding parishes (South Lenches, Norton & Lenchwick, Offenham and North & Middle Littleton). These households have the following bedroom need:

- 1 bed - 11
- 2 bed - 6
- 3 bed - 5
- 4 bed - 3

As discussed at the meeting, it is not possible from our current reporting system to establish how many households have a local connection to the parish and/or surrounding parishes through employment or close family links. Therefore, the above may be an under representation of the need for affordable housing in Harvington and the surrounding parishes.

The Housing Strategy and Enabling team that we are part of are looking at enhancements to the current system to allow us to report on the local connection at a parish level through employment and/or close family links.

We appreciate the position you are in with your Neighbourhood Plan and a new development (including a proportion of affordable houses) underway. As discussed, we would be very happy to return in the future to discuss the possibility of a Rural Exception Site.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or Lisa (cc. in) if you have any questions about the data provided or any other matters relating to rural affordable housing.

Note 3: Agenda No: 6d.

Play area/Jubilee Orchard.

Play area: Limebridge to carry out the following works:

- Repair hole in front of goal post and to look at holes along the fence line.
- Picnic bench seat by the swings one corner is broken with sharp edges. Location of this on the bench probably means no one will scratch themselves but it will need smoothing down at some point.
- Sign on tree trunk looks as though part of it has been burnt.
- Resident mentioned to Cllr that the 'slope' access for the zip wire is very slippy, and he wondered if, for example, battens of wood could be fixed across to aid access to the platform.
- Stile replacement with hoop fencing - despite several calls to contractor regarding the quote no calls have been returned.

Orchard:

- Contractor will replace 3 Birch trees that have died when conditions are more suitable.
- Lengthsman has been watering the trees as and when needed through the dry period.

Note 4: Agenda No: 6g.

Clerk CALC Meeting Notes 05.09.22.

Briefing notes from BHIB Insurer Brokers (Partners with NALC).

Current trend.

Invasive Plants.

- Current trend - queries in regard to Himalayan Balsam; American Skunk Cabbage - brought it this country by gardeners. Area of Japanese Knotweed in Worcestershire - <https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/19283989.heatmap-reveals-worcesters-japanese-knotweed-hotspots/>

Main concern is if it is growing near buildings as is very invasive. Needs to be killed by injecting poison to the roots. If any Volunteers working for the Council who deal with this they need to be trained to deal with.

if present in a field not generally problem.

Ponds.

- Risk Assessment in place.
- Fencing around a pond can cause an issue if trying to get out of the Pond - advice not to fence.
- Playgrounds - Claimant has to prove the Parish Council is negligent. Important to retain maintenance/servicing records as solicitors will ask for the documents.
- Weekly Inspections - specifically looking for items that are broken/faulty.
- Annual Inspection - to be carried out annually by official body. More detailed report i.e. testing equipment, looking for rust etc. These documents will be used in the Council's defence in case of a claim. Aviva - 4% claims paid out; 96% were unsuccessful.

All records to be kept for 21 years - very difficult for someone to claim if you have these documents.

Inspections very important.

Beware of:

Recent long period of hot weather -the following year is known as an 'event year' that can cause damage to properties from tree roots spreading due to looking for water. Occurs quite frequently. E.g. new housing estate in Birmingham - trees not managed, so roots spreading to the new properties, cracks appearing in the new properties. Ensure any planning application has trees planted away from the houses.

Tree Survey: recommend carried out every 18 months so trees are viewed at different time of the year.

Question asked: How much insurance cover should a contractor have - £10, million at least.

Update from CALC re Budget 22/23:

a) NALC recommendations for Clerk pay scales: By far the biggest pay rise proposed - at present with the 3 Unions for approval. Outcome to be known in November. Increase of £1950 for full time worker to be back dated to April 22. Parish Lengthsman/Contractor costs likely to be considerably higher due to fuel and other costs.

Note 5: Agenda No: 8.1.

BT Kiosk.

Report from Dean: I was approached several times by residents, expressing their delight that something was being done with the phone box.

One resident in particular asked me to pass on his details, as he was interested to know if there was a village fund for the upkeep of the phone box etc. As he would like to contribute.

Note 6 : Agenda No 8.2

Request from Landlord at the Golden Cross: DEFIB

I would like to offer the Golden Cross Pub to set up the Defib for the village to use. I understand the PC have a Defib that is not currently in use. We have collected £500 from customers towards the installation of a Defib. This money could be donated to putting this Defib onto the Golden Cross wall for easy access. There is an electricity supply available for

this. Could you make this an agenda item for the September meeting, and I will attend to answer any questions the council may have.

Q. ? Covered on Golden Cross Insurance Policy.

Note 7 : Agenda No: 8.4

Cleaning of the Bus Shelter, Alcester Road.

Cllr. Mr. Baugh window cleaner is prepared to clean the shelter along the Alcester Road; as it's so dirty, the first clean will cost £30 and thereafter he can clean it bi-monthly for £15.00 a time. He has insurance cover but would need to see some evidence .i.e. Public Liability cover.

Note 8 : Agenda No: 9.5

Purchase of new laptop and accessories.

Report SLPC.

The last laptop that we purchased with Harvington is a 17" Acer laptop which cost £500 in Jan 2015. A similar specification modern laptop at the same price point gives us the following specifications:

- * 15" screen
- * last-generation i5 Intel or Ryzen AMD processor
- * 8GB RAM
- * integrated graphics
- * 500GB SSD

This should be sufficient to run standard office applications (email, web browser, Office) for the next 5-7 years. We should also buy a separate wireless keyboard and mouse set for ergonomic reasons - being able to sit back from the laptop in use lessens the chance of back pain and wrist RSI.

There is plenty of choice available on the market at this price point with the above specifications from leading brands like Lenovo, Dell, Acer or HP. See, for instance:

Lenovo -

<https://www.laptopsdirect.co.uk/lenovo-v15-gen-2-core-i5-1135g7-8gb-512gb-ssd-15.6-inch-windows-11-laptop-82kb00n6uk/version.asp>

Dell -

<https://www.laptopsdirect.co.uk/dell-vostro-3510-core-i3-1115g4-8gb-256gb-15.6-inch-windows-10-pro-laptop-24cfv/version.asp>

Acer -

<https://www.laptopsdirect.co.uk/acer-aspire-3-core-i3-1115g4-8gb-512gb-ssd-17.3-inch-windows-11-laptop-nx.ad0ek.00a/version.asp>

(this has a weaker processor, but a bigger screen).

HP -

<https://www.laptopsdirect.co.uk/hp-250-q8-core-i5-1135g7-8gb-512gb-ssd-15.6-inch-windows-11-laptop-5z0q5es/version.asp>

There's not much benefit to be had for office applications at a higher price point since the laptop isn't used for heavy compute loads, nor does it get moved very often. There are machines at cheaper price points, but the trade-off would be that we make the purchase again in 4 years instead of 7, which seems unwise.

A BT keyboard and mouse bundle is negligible in cost. The best are made by Microsoft or Logitech, see for example:

Microsoft -

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Microsoft-Wireless-Desktop-Keyboard-Layout/dp/B0055JDLVG/>
for £32

Logitech -

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Logitech-Wireless-Keyboard-Battery-Compatible/dp/B009Z73SCG/>
for £20

I think it's worth the cost to make the machine easy to use.

All the prices are at the time of writing and they fluctuate weekly. I suggest that we make the decision whether and what to purchase at the council meeting and then delegate to myself or Nicky to find the best deal available shortly afterwards. We should also think about how we access Office applications - modern Microsoft Office is now difficult (impossible?) to buy individually because Microsoft have moved to a subscription model. We should see how best to access that model in the future - I would imagine that one of the organisations with which we are affiliated may be able to get us a good deal on licensing there.

Note 9 : Agenda No: 11a

Response from WCC re question raised as to whether WCC has a policy in regard to light pollution and turning off streetlights at night between 12 MN and 4am.

WCC don't use part night photo cells anymore, once a lantern is converted to LED it is left on all night. Before LED's they were using part night photocells as the old lamps cost a lot more to run but the photo cells were found to not be very reliable and would fail quite often so now they don't use them.

Note 10: Agenda No: 11b.

Application W/ENF/22/0036

Email received from Parishioner from the Enforcement Officer in relation to the Nurseries, Leys Road

In respect of condition 5 they have submitted details for our consideration, we are therefore satisfied that they have complied with 5.2 of the notice.

With regards to the landscaping, the notice gave them 8 months (by 14th December 2022) for compliance to give them the opportunity to complete this in the planting season.

I haven't been on site since just before the notice was issued, but I'll intend to be in the area this week so do another site visit then.

The last communications I had with the owner they stated that they are going to comply with the notice. They also previously said to me that they have staff coming in August so have the manpower to do works then.

Note 11:Agenda No: 11c.

Update from Highways Officer:

a)Request for extension of yellow lines, School Area.

Officer found the previous e mails regarding this request and it appears Highways were waiting for further information from ex Cllr Hopkins which never came and then the election took place. Officer arranged for the Traffic Management Team to survey at the location. Please see his response below and get back to me if there is any further that needs to be looked at.

I've taken a look at this one and I presume the request has been made because of short term school parking causing access issues for the 3 properties shown below? Whilst this is never ideal, it would be difficult to justify a TRO on these grounds and as you know it is already an offence to block a driveway.

If there is more to it please let me know but as it stands I don't think we can promote a TRO here.

Picture in Google Drive.

Note 12: Agenda No: 12.

Urgent Delegated Decisions:

a) Community Legacy Grant: Paperwork signed and returned.

b) Response to the Draft Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation.

In general, the proposals are good with regard to urban settings.

Harvington Parish Council has concerns re the connectivity between rural villages and urban centres with specific links to commuter routes. Public transport in our area is not meeting the needs of the community. More priority should be given to rural routes.

Harvington Parish Council supports the work of the Avon Arrow Greenway Project (AAGP) and their proposed cycle route to connect Evesham, Alcester and Stratford upon Avon via Bidford Health Centre.

It is disappointing that this route has such a low priority score based on the criteria used for urban routes which are not relevant to a rural route. The increased use of electric cycles opens up opportunities for people to travel safely along off road routes. This will reduce the use of motor vehicles leading to a reduction in congestion and an increase in air quality.

Harvington is adjacent to the A46 dual carriageway which carries fast and heavy traffic but is entirely unsuitable for walking and cycling. It also forms a barrier to crossing movements. The AAGP route will provide an alternative route which will be accessible for all.

The AAGP route runs through both Worcestershire and Warwickshire and provides an exemplar to show how two counties can work together. On completion it will become part of the National Cycle Network with great tourist potential as well as catering for local needs.

It should also be recognised that the AAGP is in a special category as the proposals made are at a detailed stage following feasibility studies by Sustrans and is supported by all the District and Parish Councils along the route. A local group of charitable status is working hard to make it a reality. The landowners along the route have been contacted and funding to pay for three separate sections of the route is already partly in place. It is therefore felt that the AAGP should be given a much higher priority.